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amendment filed October 27, 1999 amended claim 20 finds support, for example, at page 19 of the specification, wherein it is disclosed that human SDF-5 has application in the induction, formation, growth, differentiation, proliferation and/or maintenance and healing of cells and tissues such as chondrocyte and/or cartilaginous tissue. Such a preparation employing human SDF-5 protein may have prophylactic use in treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis and traumatic injury to cartilage. The preparation and formulation of therapeutic compositions comprising human SDF-5 is described on pages 21-22, and the dosage regimen for administration of SDF-5 is described on page 22. Moreover, Example 3 of the specification describes the Rosen-modified Sampath-Reddi assay, which provides an *in vivo* assay for evaluating bone, cartilage, and/or other connective tissue activity of SDF-5.

Attached hereto is a Version With Markings to Show Changes Made by the present amendment.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendment, Applicants respectfully request issuance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner believe that a telephonic interview would assist in clarifying any remaining issues, or to otherwise expedite prosecution, Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

If any fee is due with regard to this paper, Applicants hereby authorize payment of such fee from Deposit Account No. 07-1060.

Respectfully submitted,

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In the Claims:

20. A composition for the formation and/or maintenance of chondrocyte and/or cartilaginous tissue in a patient in need of same comprising a therapeutic amount of the human SDF-5 protein according to claim 19.